

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: USINJC
SUBJECT: INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION MEETING

1. INDO-U.S. JOINT COMMISSION MET ON SCHEDULE ON JANUARY 3, 1978. MEETING PROCEEDED ACCORDING TO AGENDA WITH OPENING STATEMENTS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND SECRETARY VANCE, READING SUBCOMMISSION REPORTS, AND SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL. BRIEFING BOOK CONTAINING THE ABOVE, AND ORIGINAL SIGNED PROTOCOL, POUCHED TO NEA/INS. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW COMMENTS MADE DURING COURSE OF THE MEETING.

2. OPENING STATEMENTS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT DWELLED MAINLY ON THE NEED FOR FORWARD PROGRESS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. A COPY OF THE FULL STATEMENT HAS BEEN POUCHED SEPARATELY TO NEA/INS (LANDE). A SIGNIFICANT PASSAGE IN PARA 2 OF THAT STATEMENT WAS ON THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND IN PART READS: "...THE CHARACTER OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS, NATURALLY, IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGE. FINANCIAL AID AND SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS ARE NO LONGER CENTRAL TO OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. THE AREAS OF COOPERATION THAT NOW NEED TO BE DEVELOPED WOULD COVER WIDER INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION AND HIGHER LEVELS OF TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE..."

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3. THE SECRETARY ADDED TO HIS PREPARED STATEMENT OUR SUPPORT FOR THE BRANDT COMMISSION. HE SAID MUCH WORK HAD TO BE DONE ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES, BUT PROGRESS MUST START WITH THE COMMON FUND. WE CANNOT FAIL ON THAT ISSUE, HE SAID, AS AGREEMENT WOULD THEN PERMIT US TO MOVE ON TO OTHER ITEMS IN THE DIALOGUE.

4. AFTER THE READING OF THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION REPORT, THE SECRETARY ASKED WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE INVESTMENT INTEREST BY US FIRMS IN INDIA, AND WHAT COULD BE DONE TO STRENGTHEN THE JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL. SECRETARY SINGH (MOF) EXPLAINED THE GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGN INVESTMENT ALONG THE LINES OF HIS PRESENTATION TO ECON/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION MEETING. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD ASK ORVILLE FREEMAN TO MEET WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. HE THEN TURNED TO THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON THE MTNS AND THE GROWING PRESSURES OF PROTECTIONISM, URGING THE GOI TO PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE IN BRINGING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

5. SECRETARY ALEXANDER (MOC) VOICED THE GOI CONCERN THAT AT A TIME WHEN INDIA WAS LIBERALIZING ITS IMPORT REGIME - AND THERE WERE PLANS TO SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND THIS PROCESS - THE MARKETS OF SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE BECOMING MORE RESTRICTED FOR LDC EXPORTS.

6. AFTER THE READING OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMISSION REPORT, SECRETARY VANCE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE HE WAS IN POLAND THERE WERE SOME DISCUSSIONS ON COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ON COAL GASIFICATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE RESULTS OF THIS COLLABORATION MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INDIA. DR. ARCOT RAMACHANDRAN, SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOLOGY, AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE INDO-US S&T SUBCOMMISSION, NOTED THAT INDIA WAS VERY INTERESTED IN COAL GASIFICATION SINCE ITS COAL HAS A HIGH ASH CONTENT. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS, DR. RAMACHANDRAN SAID THAT MOST RESEARCH IN COAL GASIFICATION IS DONE BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN THE U.S. HE WOULD LIKE THE GOI TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF SECRETARY VANCE IN GETTING ACCESS TO THIS RESEARCH. HE ALSO SAID THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE U.S. SECRETARY VANCE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD SUPPORT INDIA IN THE EFFORT TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR IN THIS FIELD.

7. IT WAS NOTED BY SECRETARY VANCE THAT SIMILAR ACCESS PROBLEMS MIGHT PERTAIN TO SOLAR ENERGY WORK WHICH IS ALSO DONE TO A LARGE EXTENT BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN THE U.S.

8. IN THE MEDICAL AREA SECRETARY VANCE PROPOSED THE POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, SPECIFICALLY IN MALARIA, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, LEPROSY, REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY AND PRIMATE RESEARCH.

9. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE EXCESSES OF THE EMER-

GENCY HAS CAUSED A SLOWDOWN DOMESTICALLY AND A MISUNDERSTANDING ABROAD THAT THE GOI WAS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN PURSUING A FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. HE EMPHATICALLY EMPHASIZED THE GOI'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO A STRONG FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM BUT ONE WITHOUT THE ELEMENT OF COMPULSION.

10. AFTER THE READING OF THE EDUCATION AND CULTURE SUBCOMMISSION REPORT, THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR GOHEEN HAD BEEN THE FIRST AMERICAN CO-CHAIRMAN AND THUS HE WAS SURE THIS SUBCOMMISSION'S INTEREST WOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED*

11. HE DECLARED THAT MORE COULD BE DONE AND THAT SOME FAULT LAY WITH THE USG IN NOT GETTING SUFFICIENT FUNDING. ATTENTION WAS BEING GIVEN TO THIS MATTER. THE REORGANIZATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF OUR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL WORK WAS ALSO IN PROGRESS, A NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY WOULD BE GIVING HER VIGOROUS LEADERSHIP TO CULTURAL AFFAIRS, AND THE SECRETARY WAS SURE THAT EFFECTIVE EFFORTS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

12. MR. LAKE NOTED THE PROBABLE IMPACT ON A LARGE SECTION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WHEN THE INDIAN FILMS WERE PRESENTED ON PBS TELEVISION. HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED AT SUCH A PROJECT.

13. THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL OF THE JOINT COMMISSION WAS FOLLOWED BY THE SIGNING OF THE LANDSAT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.
GOHEEN

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